

September 28, 1976 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—Extensions of Remarks *Revised* E 5323EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS *(Original)*RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND
RECOVERY ACT OF 1976

HON. ROBERT L. LEGGETT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 14496) to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of management plans and facilities for the recovery of energy and other resources from discarded materials and for the safe disposal of discarded materials, and to regulate the management of hazardous waste.

Mr. LEGGETT. Mr. Chairman, we are considering today one of the most pressing and difficult environmental problems—the disposal of solid wastes, or discarded materials—that now confronts the Nation. H.R. 14496, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, takes a three-pronged approach to solving the problems associated with solid waste. The bill would establish mandatory Federal controls on the disposition of hazardous wastes, a program of grants to encourage the States to develop management plans for discarded materials, and an expanded EPA effort on solid waste R. & D.

Solid waste clearly represents a problem of enormous and growing dimensions. The amount of solid waste or discarded materials which the Nation must now dispose of is variously estimated to total between 3 and 4 billion tons per year. That figure is expected to grow about 8 percent annually over the next decade. The most widespread method of disposing of all this discarded material is via sanitary landfill.

Our approach to dealing with the solid waste problem ought to focus basically on three considerations. The foremost is that the disposal of these enormous masses of materials poses a major danger both to the health and safety of our people and to the quality of the environment. Moreover, land to be used for disposal operations is becoming increasingly scarce and expensive, which is one reason why the hazardous practice of ocean-dumping is becoming more prevalent.

Disposal of solid wastes can have a number of adverse impacts. Contamination of ground water by leachate from land disposal, or of surface water by runoffs from landfills, is one of the foremost problems. Landfills also can pollute the air through incineration or evaporation, and they increase the risk of fires and explosions.

The costs of collection and disposal, now estimated at \$3.5 billion a year nationally, are an enormous burden. And they can only go up as landfill sites become harder to find. Furthermore, it will become more and more difficult for landfills and incinerators to meet pollution control standards.

The implication of these constraints is that we must find ways to cut the amount of solid waste which must be disposed of. We must make a major effort to develop advanced resource recovery techniques, which will enable us to produce energy and other resources and recycled materials.

Such an approach will benefit us doubly. Not only will we reduce the dimensions of the waste disposal problem, we will also reduce consumption of energy, raw materials, and other resources.

For just in the energy sphere, there is evidence that the energy potential of America's solid waste is the equivalent of more than 200 million barrels of oil a year, which is over a quarter of the oil expected to be delivered through the Alaska pipeline.

As the first step toward implementing this multifaceted approach to the solid waste problem, title I of H.R. 14496 would establish an Office of Discarded Materials within EPA with authority to implement the act. This office would provide both technical and financial assistance to State, regional, and local agencies which were developing discarded materials plans or hazardous waste management programs.

Title II would confer on EPA authority to establish minimum standards for hazardous wastes. EPA would have authority to identify those which are hazardous, and in what quantities, qualities, and concentrations, as well as determine which disposal methods pose hazards. States would, however, have the power to develop and implement their own standards program, if it was the equivalent of Federal standards and regulations. EPA would issue regulations to govern those sources which generate or transport hazardous waste, as well as those which treat, store, or dispose of it. The Administrator would also have the power to recommend methods of treatment, storage, or disposal and to provide technical assistance to operators of facilities performing these functions.

The bill would also establish, in title IV, a procedure for States and regions to develop comprehensive plans, in conformance with EPA guidelines, for handling all discarded materials. The States would have to meet a number of minimum requirements for sanitary and environmentally sound disposal of these materials. One of the primary aims of this part of the bill is to encourage close cooperation between State and local governments in implementing effective disposal plans.

Even with improved waste disposal planning and management, we know that to really get a handle on this problem we will need both improved disposal techniques and new resource recovery technologies. It is the purpose of part II of the bill to promote research and development in both of these areas. This provision would authorize EPA to conduct research, development, and demonstration projects in sludge management,

air quality, and other waste disposal areas as well as studies of 11 different resource recovery and related subjects.

The bill would authorize a total of \$211 million under part I for implementation of the new authorities, hazardous waste and discarded materials planning assistance, and other purposes. Part II would provide \$45 million for the various types of R. & D. contemplated by the bill.

Mr. Chairman, these sums are small compared to the need to find solutions to this difficult and growing problem. I urge my colleagues to support this bill as a necessary step in that direction.

1976 RESOLUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PRO AMERICA

HON. JOHN H. ROUSSELOT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1976

Mr. ROUSSELOT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I brought to the attention of the Members of this body the first 3 of the 23 resolutions of the National Association of Pro America for 1976. Following here is the second installment of these resolutions, including numbers 9 through 16. The final installment of the Pro America Resolutions will appear in a subsequent edition of the Record:

FOR CONTROL OF ILLEGAL ALIENS

Whereas the Immigration and Naturalization Service reports that between four million and twelve million aliens are in the United States illegally, and that these illegal aliens are taking at least one million jobs that United States citizens and legal alien residents could hold; and

Whereas these illegal aliens are not subject to income taxes, and in many cases send their earnings out of the country, thus adversely affecting United States balance of payments; and

Whereas whether employed or not, many of them are begetting families to add to the welfare burden; and

Whereas the welfare budget is being rapidly depleted and the problem is increased by the fact that public welfare agencies are not required by law to report illegal aliens nor to deny them financial assistance; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the National Association of Pro America urge the passage of a law to require that aliens seeking jobs or assistance from public welfare agencies be required to furnish proof of citizenship, or lawful residence; and be it further

Resolved, That the National Association of Pro America reaffirm its Resolutions No. IX (1972), No. XIX (1974) and No. I (1975).

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFLATION

Whereas the present fiscal policies of the United States government—

1. Spending exorbitant sums of taxpayer's money,

2. Inhibiting the initiative of the people with frustrating bureaucratic regulations,

3. Taxing savings and capital formation to oblivion,